

of shared democratic values. In a global energy market dominated by authoritarian regimes, I believe it is important for Cyprus to push forward with plans to survey its energy assets. I sincerely hope that other parties will respect Cyprus' right to pursue this undertaking.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, in an era of energy insecurity, countries around the world are constantly being challenged to come up with new ways to meet the energy needs of their citizens. The Republic of Cyprus is currently working to develop the oil and gas deposits under the island's southern continental shelf in order to expand and diversify its energy supplies. If successful, Cyprus will also be in a position to aid its neighbors in addressing their energy needs.

Unfortunately, these plans are being hindered by individuals in Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot community who are trying to dissuade foreign partners from working with Cyprus. I believe that the Republic of Cyprus has the right to explore the natural resources located in Cypriot waters, and it is my understanding that international law would support Cyprus's actions. It is my hope that the Turkish government and members of the Turkish Cypriot community will accept Cyprus's legal right to explore these resources and will cease their attempts to sabotage future business partnerships. After years of strained relations between the Cypriot communities, I fear that such provocations will only serve to augment divisions and prevent future reunification of the island.

Cyprus's peaceful energy initiatives will promote economic development for the country and its neighbors, and it is important that such efforts proceed uninhibited. Additionally, I believe these efforts must be taken in an environmentally responsible manner. I hope that those persons currently working to derail this process will come to their senses and realize the positive effects that increased energy supplies will have on the stability and prosperity of the entire region.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, last week I was pleased to join Senator HAGEL and 66 other Senators in introducing S. Res. 122, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. As the unanimous approval of this resolution suggests, showing respect for the memorial and those it honors is a unifying action.

But I remember that it has not always been so. For a time, it was controversial to speak in support of the memorial that honors and recognizes the more than 58,000 servicemembers who gave their lives in Vietnam and the more than 3 million men and women who served there. In fact, for some time it was even controversial to

support the war's veterans themselves. As our troops returned home from Vietnam, far too many returned to face the ridicule and contempt of their fellow Americans. When the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was organized in 1979 for the purpose of establishing a memorial for those who served in the war, both living and dead, it faced an uphill battle. We can all be grateful that supporters persevered.

In the 25 years since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated, we have made much progress as a country and can now honor Vietnam veterans and the memorial that honors them without dissension. Known to many as "the Wall," it has become the most popular memorial in our Nation's Capital, attracting an estimated 4.4 million visitors each year. Many of them leave behind offerings to the men and women lost in Vietnam, such as letters, medals, birthday cards and roses. These offerings, which now number more than 100,000, are preserved at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection.

People visit the Wall for many reasons: to honor, to heal, and to be reminded of the human costs of war. One veteran described the Memorial this way: "It's a quiet place where I can stand and remember my friends. And that's all I would like to do."

Like so many other Americans, I am grateful for the healing power of the Wall. May it continue to honor, heal, and remind us all of the consequences of war.

TRIBUTE TO SUE GLYNN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of my longtime friend and staff member, Sue Glynn. After serving on my staff in the Michigan State Legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, Sue has decided to join her husband, Dale, in a well-deserved retirement.

Before joining my staff, Sue worked for the Michigan Democratic Party and other members of the Michigan State Legislature. I consider myself very fortunate that she chose to be a part of my staff and stay with me for over 20 years. She has worn many hats while working for me, including scheduler, regional manager and office manager. She has handled each one with professionalism and grace.

Sue is well known for her incredible organizational skills, and I have relied on her in so many ways. She is leaving very big shoes to fill.

Both Sue and her husband have dedicated themselves to public service—Sue in government and Dale with the public school system. As a couple and individually, they are well-respected community leaders. I know their commitment will continue into retirement.

My staff and I will miss her presence in the office and her outstanding work ethic. She is a woman of strong values and integrity. She approaches her work

in a serious manner but also is very fun-loving. I know that the many people in Michigan, whose lives she has touched through her work, will miss her as well.

Upon leaving the Senate, Sue has many exciting plans and will probably be busier than she is now. She enjoys golfing, bowling, gardening, spending time with her daughter and son and their families, traveling and being with friends.

Mr. President, I am sad because I am losing a trusted and valued member of my staff, but I am happy to see a dear friend move on to new life experiences after a long and distinguished career. She deserves the best of everything and I will always value our friendship in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DEPUTY SHERIFF MANUEL VILLEGAS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of deputy sheriff Manuel Villegas, a dedicated public servant committed to protecting the safety of his community, the State of California, and the Nation. Just 17 months into his tenure with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Villegas tragically lost his life in an automobile collision while en route to a domestic violence call on March 19, 2007. It is testament to the heroism and commitment to duty of this young deputy sheriff that he died while trying to protect someone in need.

A native of Lindsay, CA, Deputy Villegas served honorably in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army before joining the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Villegas's exceptional work ethic and performance in the Army Airborne School earned him the parachutist rating and enabled him to join the selective ranks of the Army's paratroopers. For his service in the Army Special Forces Group, 307th Infantry Battalion and the Special Forces, 2nd Battalion, Deputy Villegas was awarded numerous distinctions including the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Medal. He also earned campaign medals for his service in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Deputy Villegas' decorated service in the U.S. Armed Forces was followed by an equally distinguished record at the Sheriff's Basic Academy. He proved to be an exemplary recruit upon entering the academy on November 14, 2005. He graduated first in his class and was awarded the California Academy Directors Association Award for serving as a model of excellence to fellow students and encouraging others to strive for success. Athletically talented, Deputy Villegas even set the Basic Academy's record for the mile-and-a-half run.

Deputy Villegas is described by his colleagues as having been an exemplary deputy sheriff who was well respected and highly invested in making